

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9058

INFO COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16053

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, VN, CH

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA AND ITS ALLIES

REF: A. FBIS BK 050146Y AUG 75

1. DESPITE CONSIDERABLE PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT THE CHINESE ROLE IN CAMBODIA, WE CONTINUE NOT TO KNOW FOR SURE WHETHER EITHER THE DRV OR THE PRC HAS THE UPPER HAND IN CAMBODIA. DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, GRUNK HAS BEEN PLAYING WHAT APPEARS TO BE A CAREFULLY PREPARED GAME WITH RESPECT TO ITS CONTENDING "ALLIES".

2. BOTH HANOI AND PHNOM PENH HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT A NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION, HEADED BY FIRST SECRETARY LE DUAN, RECENTLY VISITED CAMBODIA, WHOSE "LEADING COMMITTEE OF THE REVOLUTION" RECEIVED IT. IN CORDIAL TALKS, BOTH SIDES DISCUSSED QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL CONCERN AND REACHED COMPLETE AGREEMENT, STRENGTHENING THE TWO COUNTRIES' CONFIDENTIAL

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SOLIDARITY AND GREAT FRIENDSHIP, ACCORDING TO THE

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

3. ON THE SAME AUGUST 2 BROADCAST, RADIO PHNOM PENH RELEASED THE TEXT OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KHIEU SAMPHAN'S LETTER OF THE PREVIOUS DAY TO PRC DEFENSE MINISTER YEH CHIEN-YING, CONGRATULATING THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY ON ITS ANNIVERSARY, EXPRESSING THE HOPE FOR EVER-LASTING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES' ARMIES AND PEOPLES. IN ADDITION, THE SAME BROADCAST NOTED THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING OF THE CHINESE SATELLITE.

4. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT ITS REVOLUTIONARY ARMY IS COURAGEIOUSLY OCCUPYING TWO ISLANDS OFF THE COAST OF KEP: KOH TUNSAY AND KOH PUO. THERE, IT IS WORKING TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND TO DEFEND THE TERRITORIAL WATERS BOTH DAY AND NIGHT, TRANSFORMING THESE ISLANDS INTO "FORTIFIED BASES". (REF)

5. THREE GKR NAVY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO REAM AND, AT THE TIME OF THE TAKE-OVER, IMPRESSED INTO SERVICE WITH THE NEW GRUNK NAVY BECAUSE OF THEIR SKILLS, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER IN KHLONG YAI REFUGEE CAMP AUGUST 4 THAT, PRIOR TO THEIR DEFECTIONS JUNE 26, IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN REAM THAT THE KC, HAVING TAKEN A BAD BEATING WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES IN THE FIREFIGHT WITH THE VIETNAMESE ON POULO WAI ISLAND, WERE DETERMINED TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN. THEREFORE, THE COMMUNISTS WERE PLACING CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS IN BUILDING UP DEFENSES ON KOH TUNSAY IN ANTICIPATION OF A FUTURE STRUGGLE WITH THE VIETNAMESE THERE, THEY SAID.

6. COMMENT. IN THE AFTERMATH OF LE DUAN'S VISIT, THE SUBSEQUENT CAMBODIAN ANNOUNCEMENTS MUST NOT BE VERY REASSURING TO THE VIETNAMESE ABOUT THEIR POSITION IN CAMBODIA. ON THE OTHER HAND, ONE WONDERS WHETHER THE CHINESE, EVEN WITH THEIR SHIPS DELIVERING GOODS TO KOMPONG SOM, ARE ANYTHING BUT EMBARRASSED AND HELPLESS (AS A KNOWLEDGEABLE FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIAL HERE PHRASED IT) ABOUT THE TURN OF EVENTS IN CAMBODIA SINCE APRIL 17. THE NEW KC GOVERNMENT HAS TURNED OUT TO BE AMAVERICK FOR BOTH OF ITS
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ALLIES, AND IT WILL BE MOST INTERESTING TO WATCH ITS RELATIONS WITH THEM PROGRESS.
WHITEHOUSE

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